

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An interconnecting device ~~which interconnects to establish~~ communication in a computer network ~~to which~~ with plural communication devices ~~connect~~, comprising:

a first holding unit which holds a memory storing thereon device identifiers;

a reading unit operatively ~~connecting~~ connected to said first holding unit, said reading unit reading a ~~first device identifier~~ a media access control address (MAC address) of a first communication device of the communication devices, ~~which is allowed to communicate in the computer network, from the memory held by said first holding unit;~~ and

a setting unit operatively connecting to said reading unit, said setting unit setting a communication setting of the computer network to allow the first communication device ~~identified by said first device identifier~~ to communicate in the computer network.

2. (Currently Amended) The interconnecting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the memory unit stores therein ~~the encrypted first device identifier~~ an encrypted MAC address, and the interconnecting device further ~~comprising~~ comprises a decoder ~~connecting~~ connected to said reading unit, which decodes the ~~encrypted first device identifier~~ encrypted MAC address ~~read by said reading unit.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The interconnecting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said setting unit sets the interconnecting device to allow the first communication device ~~identified by the first device identifier~~ to communicate ~~in~~ with the interconnecting device.

4. (Currently Amended) The interconnecting device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said setting unit further sets a communication bandwidth, ~~in the interconnecting device, of communication of~~ for the first device communication device ~~identified by the first device identifier.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The interconnecting device as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a transmitting unit which transmits the ~~first device identifier~~ MAC address ~~to another a second~~ interconnecting device to facilitate communication therewith, ~~connecting with the~~

~~interconnecting device, thereby to allow the first communication device identified by the first identifier to communicate in the other interconnecting device.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The interconnecting device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ~~other second~~ interconnecting device connects ~~the computer network and another~~ to a second computer network, and said transmitting unit transmits the ~~first device identifier~~ MAC address to the ~~other second~~ interconnecting device ~~thereby to allow the first communication device identified by the first identifier to communicate in~~ with the other second computer network.

7. (Currently Amended) The interconnecting device as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a transmitting unit operatively ~~connecting~~ connected to said setting unit and transmitting the ~~first device identifier~~ MAC address to a management apparatus of the computer network which manages the computer network to allow the first communication device ~~identified by the first device identifier to communicate in~~ with the computer network.

8. (Currently Amended) The interconnecting device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a second holding unit operatively ~~connecting~~ connected to said reading unit and holding a memory, wherein said reading unit reads a second device identifier of a second communication device of the plural communication devices, ~~which is allowed to communicate in the computer network,~~ from the memory held by said second holding unit; and

said setting unit sets the communication setting of the computer network to allow the second communication device ~~identified by the second device identifier to communicate in~~ with the computer network.

9. (Currently Amended) The interconnecting device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said setting ~~units~~ unit sets the interconnecting device to allow the first communication device ~~identified by the first device identifier to communicate in~~ with the interconnecting device, and sets the interconnecting device to allow the second communication device ~~identified by the second device identifier to communicate in~~ with the interconnecting device.

10. (Currently Amended) The interconnecting device as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a first connection port to which the first communication device connects and a second connection port to which the second communication device connects, wherein said setting unit ~~set~~ sets the interconnecting device to allow communication of the first communication device at said first connection port and the second communication device at said second connection port.

11. (Currently Amended) The interconnecting device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said setting unit further sets a communication bandwidth ~~of communication~~ at both said first connection port and said second connection port.

12. (Currently Amended) The interconnecting device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
a storage unit which stores therein a device identifier of at least one communication device, the device identifier allowing the communication device to communicate ~~in~~ with the interconnecting device; and

a communication controller connecting to said storage unit and restricting access to the interconnecting device from a communication device which is not allowed to communicate ~~in~~ with the interconnecting device, based on the device identifier stored in said storage unit.

13. (Currently Amended) The interconnecting device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said setting unit stores in said storage unit the first device identifier read from said reading unit so as to allow the first communication device identified by the first device identifier read from said reading unit to communicate ~~in~~ with the interconnecting device.

14. (Original) The interconnecting device as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a plurality of connection ports to which a plurality of communication devices connect respectively, wherein said storage unit stores therein a device identifier of at least one of the communication devices, the device identifier allowing the communication device to communicate at a corresponding connection port out of said plurality of connection ports, which correspond to a plurality of communication devices respectively.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing thereon a communication setting program for a an interconnecting device, which sets a communication setting of a computer network, the program comprising:

a reading module which allows the interconnecting device to read from a removable nonvolatile memory a device identifier media access control address (MAC address) of a communication device, which is allowed to communicate in the computer network, ~~from a removable nonvolatile memory~~; and

a setting module which allows the interconnecting device to set a communication setting of the computer network to allow the communication device identified by the ~~device identifier~~ MAC address to communicate in the computer network.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 15, wherein said setting module sets the interconnecting device to allow the communication device identified by the ~~device identifier~~ MAC address to communicate ~~in~~ with the interconnecting device.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a transmitting module which allows the interconnecting device to transmit the ~~device identifier~~ MAC address to the other a second interconnecting device, connecting to the interconnecting device, ~~to set~~ to allow the communication device ~~identified by the device identifier~~ to communicate ~~in~~ with the other second interconnecting device.

18. (Canceled).